

Illinois State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulas

Opportunity Illinois: Disaster Recovery Loan Program

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the Opportunity Illinois: Disaster Recovery Loan Program?

Opportunity Illinois: Disaster Recovery is a low-interest loan program provided through the Treasurer's Office to help Illinois residents and businesses recover from weather-related damage.

Who is eligible to use the program?

Illinois residents or businesses located in an area that has been declared a natural disaster area by the Governor or a local government official. The Illinois residents or businesses had to have sustained some damage due to the weather.

How does the program work?

First, the area in which the home or business is located must be declared a natural disaster area by the Governor or a local government official. Next, the affected party must visit an eligible financial institution and apply for a loan valued up to the damage amount. Once the loan has been approved, the Treasurer's Office will deposit state funds at a discounted rate into the eligible financial institution. The institution then lends the funds at a below-market interest rate for one year. The goal is to provide the affected party immediate, affordable access to money for needed repairs while he or she waits for an insurance settlement or other aid that can be used to pay off the loan.

What is the interest rate available through the program?

Rates are calculated daily. Please contact our office at the number below or visit our web site at www.treasurer.il.gov and click on "Daily Rates" to find out the current rate. The rate provided or shown is the Treasurer's deposit rate. The financial institution may not mark up that rate by more than 3%.

What is the term on the loan?

The term of your loan may be for any number of years. The Treasurer's Office may participate for up to the first year. After the first year, the loan may revert to conventional rates.

What is the amount of the loan? How are the funds used?

The amount of the loan is based on what the financial institution has approved. The amount is typically based on the estimate of the damage done to the property. The funds are typically used as a bridge loan for residents and businesses that are waiting for insurance settlements or other aid programs to take effect.

Does the program guarantee the loan?

The program does not provide a loan guarantee or any type of credit enhancement to the borrower, nor does it nullify or otherwise modify the financial institution's normal credit requirements.

Which financial institutions may participate in the Treasurer's programs?

Over 400 financial institutions in Illinois are currently eligible to receive state deposits. You may contact our office at (312) 814-1244 for a list of financial institutions or visit our web site (www.treasurer.il.gov). The list can be found in the "Storm Victims" section of "Opportunity Illinois".

What is the application process?

1. The area must be declared a natural disaster area by the Governor or a local government official.
2. You must meet with a loan officer at an eligible financial institution and secure loan approval, and the financial institution must agree to use the program. If your loan officer has questions regarding the program, please feel free to refer them to our office. New lenders are encouraged to participate.
3. After you are approved for a loan, an Application Form must be completed by the financial institution and an Acknowledgement Form must be completed by the borrower and financial institution. **The Application Form and Acknowledgement Form are online and can be faxed to our Banking Division at (217) 522-1217.** If you have questions about the process, please contact us at (312) 814-1244.
4. If the application is approved, our Banking Division will perform a 24-hour transfer of funds via ACH into the financial institution so that the funds are made available to the borrower.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if you have any questions or need additional information at (312) 814-1244.